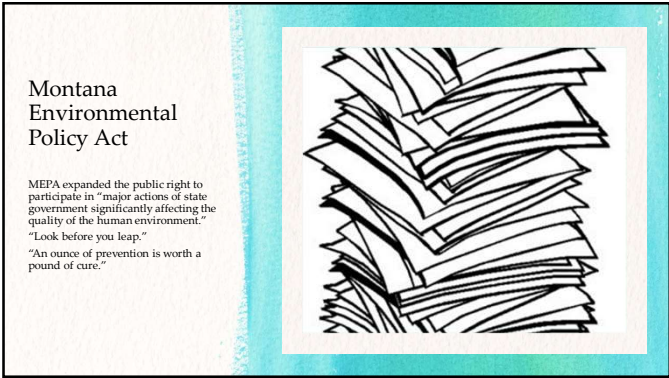


- Montana Environmental Policy Act and You
- What is MEPA
 - When is a MEPA review necessary?
 - What are impacts?
 - What is significant?
 - What form will the MEPA review take?
 - What this means in a grant application?



Montana
Environmental
Policy Act

MEPA expanded the public right to participate in "major actions of state government significantly affecting the quality of the human environment."
"Look before you leap."
"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."



MEPA - PROBLEM SOLVING TOOL

Foster wise actions and better decisions by state agencies.

Ensuring that relevant environmental information is available to public officials before decisions are made and before actions are taken.

MEPA has two central requirements:

- Agencies must consider the effects of pending decisions on the environment and on people prior to making each decision.
- Agencies must ensure that the public is informed of and participates in the decisionmaking process.

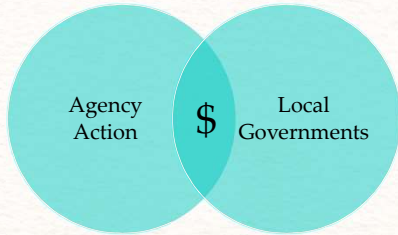
PROBLEM SOLVING THINK BEFORE YOU ACT

- ☐ Describe the Need (PURPOSE AND NEED)
- ☐ Explain the Intended Solution (PROPOSED ACTION)
- ☐ Discuss Alternatives (ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS)
- ☐ Analyze the consequences to the human environment (IMPACTS)
- ☐ Alleviate or minimize adverse consequences (MITIGATION)
- ☐ Interdisciplinary Approach

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- ☐ Informing the public
- ☐ Seeking preliminary comments (SCOPING)
- ☐ Preparing environmental reviews (Environmental Assessments, etc.)
- ☐ Public comment
- ☐ Final Decisions

WHY ME?



APPLICATION

Step 8 – Environmental Checklist

All applicants must consider the potential environmental impacts of their projects. Preparation of this document can alert applicants to consideration of location, design, or construction actions that will help to avoid potential adverse environmental impacts or expensive mitigation or construction costs. A project will not be eligible for funding if it would result in significant adverse impact after mitigation.

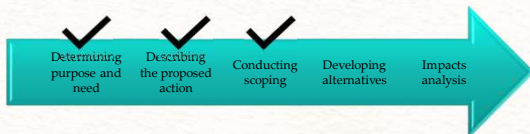
Please complete the environmental checklist below. If an Environmental Assessment has been completed for the proposed project, you may include it instead of completing the checklist.

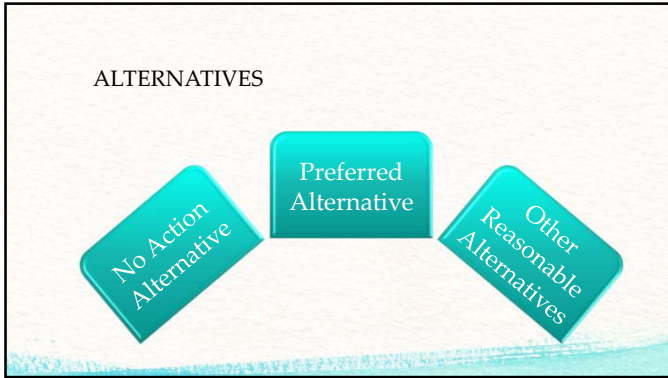
Environmental Checklist

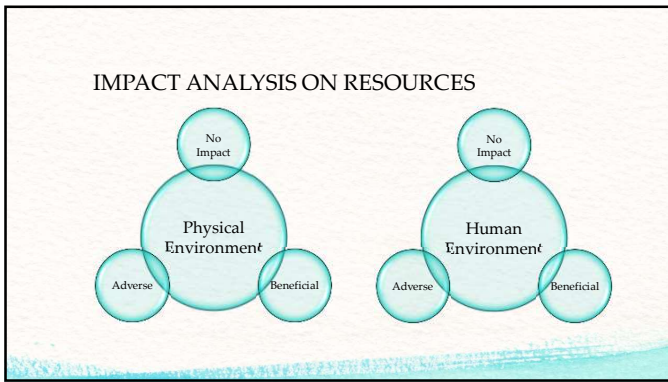
Complete the environmental checklist for the preferred alternative found on the following pages.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT		
Impact Code	Impact Type	Explanation of Impact to Resource
1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil slump, steep slopes, subsidence, mineral activity)		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct	Environmental Narrative:
<input type="checkbox"/> Beneficial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirect	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative	
2. Hazardous Facilities (example: power lines, hazardous waste sites, acceptable distance from explosive and flammable hazards including chemical/petrochemical storage tanks, underground fuel storage tanks and related facilities such as refueling storage facilities and propane storage tanks)		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct	Environmental Narrative:
<input type="checkbox"/> Beneficial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirect	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative	
3. Surrounding Air Quality (example: dust, odors, emissions)		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct	Environmental Narrative:
<input type="checkbox"/> Beneficial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirect	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative	
4. Groundwater Resources and Aquifers (example: quantity, quality, distribution, depth to groundwater, subsidence, upflow)		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct	Environmental Narrative:
<input type="checkbox"/> Beneficial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirect	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative	
5. Surface Water/Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution (example: streams, lakes, storm runoff, irrigation systems, canals)		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct	Environmental Narrative:
<input type="checkbox"/> Beneficial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirect	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative	
6. Floodplain and Floodplain Management (Identify any floodplains within one mile of the boundary of the project.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct	Environmental Narrative:
<input type="checkbox"/> Beneficial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirect	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative	
7. Wetlands (Identify any wetlands within one mile of the boundary of the project and state potential impacts.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct	Environmental Narrative:
<input type="checkbox"/> Beneficial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirect	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative	

HELP!







APPLICATION

Step 8 – Environmental Checklist

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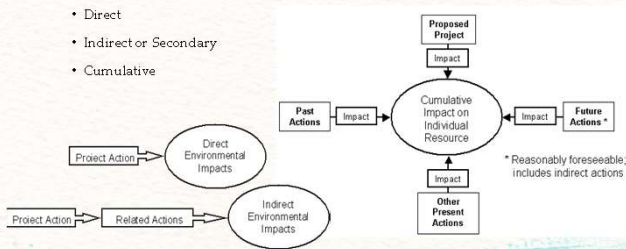
Environmental Checklist

Complete the environmental checklist for the preferred alternative found on the following pages.

Impact Category	Impact Type	Explanation of Impact to Resource
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT		
1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil type, steep slopes, subdivisions, zoning, etc.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct	Environmental Narrative:
<input type="checkbox"/> Beneficial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirect	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative	
2. Hazardous Facilities (example: power lines, hazardous waste sites, acceptable distance from explosive and flammable hazards including chemical/ petrochemical storage tanks, underground fuel storage tanks, and related facilities such as natural gas storage facilities and propane storage tanks)		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct	Environmental Narrative:
<input type="checkbox"/> Beneficial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirect	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative	
3. Surrounding Air Quality (example: dust, odors, vibrations)		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct	Environmental Narrative:
<input type="checkbox"/> Beneficial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirect	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative	
4. Groundwater Resources and Aquifers (example: quantity, quality, distribution, depth to aquifer, water table, etc.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct	Environmental Narrative:
<input type="checkbox"/> Beneficial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirect	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative	
5. Surface Water/Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution (example: streams, lakes, storm runoff, irrigation systems, canals)		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct	Environmental Narrative:
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<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct	Environmental Narrative:
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<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct	Environmental Narrative:
<input type="checkbox"/> Beneficial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirect	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative	

TYPE OF IMPACTS

- Direct
- Indirect or Secondary
- Cumulative



SIGNIFICANCE

Preferred Alternative Only!

IF POTENTIALLY ADVERSE

Severity
Duration
Extent
Frequency

BUT WAIT!

MITIGATION MEASURES

Short-term
Long-term

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS

Cat X

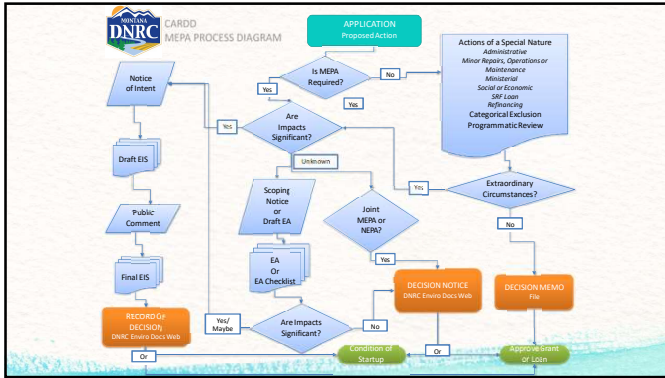
- MEPA Analysis
- Excluded from EA or EIS by Rule

EA

- Environmental Analysis
- No Significant Impact or Mitigated

EIS

- Environmental Impact Statement
- Disclose Adverse Impacts



NEED HELP?

Or just call us...

Montana Legislature EQC [MEPA Resources](#)

[Guide to MEPA \(2019\)](#)

[MEPA Analysis Online Resource List](#)

[EQC Environmental Indicators](#)

LIST OF RESOURCES

An evaluation of the impacts, including cumulative and secondary impacts, on the physical environment including, where appropriate:

- Terrestrial and aquatic life and habitats;
- Water quality, quantity, and distribution;
- Geology;
- Soil quality, stability, and moisture;
- Vegetation cover, quantity and quality;
- Aesthetics;
- Air quality;
- Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental RESOURCES; historical and archaeological sites; and
- Demands on environmental RESOURCES of land, water, air and energy;

[MEPA Analysis Online Resource List](#)

[EQC Environmental Indicators](#)

An evaluation of the impacts, including cumulative and secondary impacts, on the human population in the area to be affected by the proposed action including where appropriate:

- Social structures and mores;
- Cultural uniqueness and diversity;
- Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities;
- Local and state tax base and tax revenues;
- Agricultural or industrial production;
- Human health; quantity and distribution of employment;
- Distribution and density of population and housing;
- Demands for government services; industrial and commercial activity;
- Locally adopted environmental plans and goals; and
- Other appropriate social and economic circumstances;

Determining the Significance of Impacts								
Impact	Type of Impact	Mitigation Measures	Severity	Duration	Extent	Frequency	Probability	Other Significance Factors
IMPACT on each RESOURCE		*For each ADVERSE IMPACT, determine the SIGNIFICANCE						
None	Direct: Occurs at the same time and place as the action	Not required	Negligible: Not expected to be detrimental to the resource	Short term: During the term of the project	Local: Within project area	Seldom	Unlikely: The resource impact is not expected to be detectable or measurable	Growth-inducing aspects of the impact
Beneficial	Secondary: Occurs at a different location or later time as the action	May be necessary to mitigate impact	Minor: Minimally detrimental to the resource	Medium term: Intermittent	Regional or local/adjacent: Within the area adjacent to the project	Intermittent	Possible: The resource impact may be detectable or measurable	Growth-limiting aspects of the impact
Adverse*	Cumulative: Collective impacts when considered in conjunction with past, present, and future actions	May be required to mitigate impacts	Moderate: Moderately detrimental to the resource	Long term:	Large or statewide: Impacts are measurable far outside the area of the project	Often	Probable or Likely: The resource impact is expected to be detectable or measurable	Precedence: Consent the Department to future actions with significant impacts
Both Beneficial and Adverse*	Residual: Impacts that are not eliminated by mitigation measures	Mitigation measures will not reduce the impacts	Major: Highly detrimental to the resource				Precedence: Decision in principle about such future actions	Importance of the RESOURCE: State Federal
An impact may be adverse, beneficial, or both. If none of the adverse effects of the impact are SIGNIFICANT, an EIS is not required. An EIS is required if an impact has a SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE effect, even if the agency believes that the effect on balance will be beneficial. ARN636.2.524								

